

## **Claims**

### **What is claimed is:**

1. An electronic system for identifying a public health risk comprising:  
10 attendance input means adapted for periodically receiving data representative of attendance information for at least one selected student;  
associating means adapted for associating the input attendance information with demographic information of the at least one selected student to form associated attendance information;  
15 analyzing means adapted for analyzing the associated attendance information against data representative of selected criteria to identify a public health risk; and means for outputting data representative of an identified public health risk.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the demographic information of the at least one  
20 student includes at least one of a home address, a postal code corresponding to the home address, emergency contact information, an identification of at least one legal guardian, and an email address of the at least one legal guardian.
3. The system of claim 2 further comprising transmitting means adapted for  
25 transmitting the associated attendance information to a remote data processing device, and wherein the analyzing means is associated with the remote data processing device.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the remote data processing device comprises  
30 sorting means adapted for sorting the received attendance information into one of a plurality of categories, each corresponding to a pre-specified postal code.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the analyzing means identifies a public health risk by analyzing trends in attendance data relative to each postal code category.

5 6. The system of claim 1, further comprising attendance input means includes at least one of a local desktop computer, a handheld device, an Internet-accessible web page, an radio frequency identification device and a machine readable indicia.

7. The system of claim 4 further comprising email notification means adapted for  
10 automatically creating and transmitting to the parental figure of the at least one student an email message comprising attendance information of the at least one student.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the email message further comprises homework information for the at least one student.

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9. A method for identifying a public health risk comprising the steps of:  
periodically receiving input data representative of attendance information for at least one selected student;  
associating the input attendance information with demographic information of the  
20 at least one selected student to form associated attendance information;  
analyzing the associated attendance information against data representative of selected criteria to identify a public health risk; and  
outputting data representative of an identified public health risk.

25 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the demographic information includes at least one of a home address of the student, a postal code corresponding to the home address of the student, emergency contact information for the student, an identification of at least one parental figure of the student, and an email address of the at least one legal guardian.

30 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of transmitting the associated attendance information to a remote data processing device, and wherein an analyzing means associated with the remote data processing device performs the step of analyzing the associated attendance information.

5 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of sorting the received attendance information into one of a plurality of categories, each corresponding to a pre-specified postal code.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of identifying a public health  
10 risk by analyzing trends in attendance data relative to each postal code category.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of receiving user input representative of attendance information is performed with at least one of a local desktop computer, a handheld device, an Internet-accessible web page, and an article of paper having machine  
15 readable indicia.

15. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of automatically creating and transmitting to the legal guardian an electronic message comprising attendance event information of the at least one student.  
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16. The method of claim 15, wherein the email message further comprises homework information for the at least one student.

17. An electronic school bus routing system comprising:  
25 assigned bus route displaying means adapted for displaying assigned bus route information for at least one selected student;  
alternate bus route displaying means adapted for displaying at least one alternate bus route information for the at least one selected student; and  
selection means adapted for receiving user input representative of a selection of an  
30 alternate bus route for the at least one selected student.

18. The electronic school bus routing system of claim 17 further comprising security means adapted for controlling access to the bus route displaying means, wherein the security means is operably only upon input of valid security information.

19. The electronic school bus routing system of claim 17 further comprising authorization code transmitting means adapted for transmitting to the user an authorization code upon the selection of an alternate bus route.

- 10 20. The electronic school bus routing system of claim 19 further comprising assigning means adapted for assigning the selected alternate bus route to the student, wherein the assigning means is operable only upon input of the authorization code.